CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 21 ON NUCLEAR WEAPON TEST EXPLOSIONS

1. The Group of 21 recalls its previous statement contained in document CD/1329 (CD/NTB/WP.248) of 30 June 1995, wherein the Group had clarified its principled position on nuclear-weapon tests.

2. Consistent with its principled position as clearly stated in the aforementioned document, the Group of 21 reiterates its concern on the two nuclear-weapon test explosions recently conducted by two nuclear-weapon States. Such tests could undermine the multilateral negotiations currently in progress at the Conference on Disarmament for the successful conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. The States parties to the NPT of the Group of 21 are of the view that such nuclear testing runs counter to the decisions adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

3. The Group of 21 reiterates its earlier calls and those of the international community upon the nuclear-weapon States to eschew nuclear testing in the interest of the CD's ongoing multilateral negotiations aimed at concluding a universal, non-discriminatory and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty no later than the fall of 1996.

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